

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for exchanging data between a first functional unit and a second functional unit, comprising the following acts:

in a first handshake procedure, exchanging data corresponding to a communication thread selected by the first functional unit;

while independently in a second handshake procedure, exchanging information relating to a status of at least one communication thread from the second to the first functional unit; and

based on the information relating to the status, anticipating by the first functional unit a possibility of exchanging data the for at least one communication thread;

~~wherein the information is indicative for an expected waiting time before a request relating to the at least one communication~~

thread can be handled of a frequency with which new data is to be provided.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the information is indicative for a filling degree of a buffer reserved for the at least one communication thread.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A processing system comprising a first functional unit and a second functional unit, the processing system being arranged to exchange data corresponding to a communication thread selected by the first functional unit in a first handshake procedure, while independently exchanging information relating to a status of at least one communication thread from the second to the first functional unit in a second handshake procedure,

wherein the information enables the first functional unit to anticipate the possibility of exchanging data for the at least one communication thread, and wherein the information is indicative ~~for an expected waiting time before a request relating to the at least~~

~~one communication thread can be handled~~ of a frequency with which new data is to be provided.

5. (Previously Presented) The processing system according to claim 4, further comprising a plurality of functional units in a network, the processing system being arranged to transmit data and a communication thread identifier for said data according to a split protocol along a communication path from a source functional unit to a destination functional unit via one or more intermediate functional units, including a first functional unit and a second functional unit.

6. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the information is indicative for an expected waiting time before a request relating to the at least one communication thread can be handled.

7. (New) The processing system of claim 4, wherein the information is indicative for an expected waiting time before a request relating to the at least one communication thread can be handled.